

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1-2. (cancelled).

3. (previously presented) A display method for a chat system, comprising:

setting a keyword;

determining whether the keyword exists in a conversation and in a response carried out using the chat system;

displaying said keyword in bold type or generating a specified sound when said keyword exists in a displayed conversation; and

returning to a display of a conversation when said keyword is received while the conversation is not displayed, and emphasizing said keyword.

4. (previously presented) The display method for the chat system as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising:

storing said keyword together with a portion of the conversation including a specific number of lines before and after said keyword; and

listing and displaying said keyword and said portion of the conversation according to an instruction.

5. (previously presented) The display method for the chat system as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising listing and displaying said keyword together with said portion of the conversation when said keyword is input after said keyword is stored.

6. (previously presented) The display method for the chat system as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising:

registering said keyword together with said portion of the conversation in a list application program provided outside the chat system; and

saving said registered keyword and said statements portion of the conversation after the conversation ended.

7. (previously presented) The display method for the chat system as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising listing and displaying said keyword and said portion of the conversation after the conversation ended.

8. (previously presented) The display method for the chat system as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising listing and displaying said keyword together with said portion of the conversation when said keyword is input after said keyword is stored.

9. (previously presented) The display method for the chat system as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising:

registering said keyword together with said portion of the conversation in a list application program provided outside the chat system; and

saving said registered keyword and said portion of the conversation after the conversation ended.

10-11. (cancelled).

12. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium storing executable code that when executed causes a computer to execute a method for displaying a conversation in a chat system, the method comprising:

sending and receiving conversations in plural chat channels;

displaying the conversations;

setting a keyword;

determining whether the keyword exists in a conversation and in a response carried out using one of the plural chat channels;

displaying said keyword in bold type or generating a specified sound when said set keyword exists and the conversation is displayed; and

returning to a display of a conversation when said keyword is received while the conversation is not displayed.

13. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 12, the method further comprising listing and displaying said keyword, when said keyword is input after said storing of said keyword together with a portion of the conversation including a

specific number of lines before and after said keyword.

14. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 12, the method further comprising storing said keyword together with a portion of the conversation including a specific number of lines before and after said keyword.

15. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 14, the method further comprising listing and displaying said keyword together with said portion of the conversation, when said keyword is input after said storing of said keyword together with said portion including a specific number of lines before and after said keyword.

16. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 12, the method further comprising registering said keyword together with said portion of the conversation including a specific number of lines before and after said keyword in a list application program provided outside the chat system after the conversation ended.

17. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 14, the method further comprising listing and displaying said keyword together with said portion of the conversation after the conversation ended.

18. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 17, the method further comprising registering said keyword together with said portion of the conversation in a list application program provided outside the chat system after the conversation ended.

19. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 17, the method further comprising listing and displaying said keyword together with said portion of the conversation, when said keyword is input after said storing of said keyword.

20. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 19, the method further comprising registering said keyword together with said portion of the conversation in a list application program provided outside the chat system after the conversation ended.

21-22. (cancelled).

23. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium storing code implementing a chat system, which code when executed causes a computer to:

- send and receive conversations in plural channels;
- display the conversations;
- set a keyword;
- determine whether the keyword exists in a conversation;
- display said keyword in bold type or generate a specified sound when said set keyword exists in a displayed conversation; and
- return to a display of a conversation when said keyword is received while the conversation is not displayed.

24. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 23, said code further causes said computer to list and display said keyword together with a portion of the conversation including a specific number of lines of before and after said keyword, when said keyword is input after said setting said keyword.

25. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 23, wherein said code further causes said computer to store said keyword together with a portion of the conversation including a specific number of lines before and after said keyword.

26. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 25, wherein said computer code further causes said computer to list and display said keyword together with said portion of the conversation, when said keyword is input after said storing of said keyword and said portion of the conversation.

27. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 23, wherein said computer code further causes said computer to register said keyword together with a portion of the conversation including a specific number of lines before and after said keyword in a list application program provided outside the chat system, after the conversation ended.

28. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim

25, wherein said computer code further causes said computer to:

display said conversations; and

list and display said keyword together with said portion of the conversation, after the conversation ended.

29. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 28, wherein said computer code further causes said computer to register said keyword together with said portion of the conversation in a list application program provided outside the chat system, after the conversation ended.

30. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 28, wherein said computer code further causes said computer to list and display said keyword together with said portion of the conversation, when said keyword is input after said storing of said keyword together with said portion of the conversation.

31. (previously presented) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 30, wherein said computer code further causes said computer to register said keyword together with said portion of the conversation in a list application program provided outside the chat system after the conversation ended.

32-42. (cancelled).

43. (original) A display method used in a chat system for performing conversations in the form of character s among terminal devices each having a display screen connected by a network, comprising:

dividing the display screen into a plurality of regions each of which displays a character string of a conversation of a main channel and a character string of a conversation of the other channels, and when a URL is included in the conversations in the regions of the display screen, the URL is extracted together with the character strings preceding and following the URL; and

detecting an appearance of a character string indicating a name of a terminal user when a character string indicating the name of the terminal user previously specified appears, and informing the terminal of the appearance, and displaying the content of the conversations including the detected character string in the region of the screen for the main channel.

44. (cancelled).

45. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program which when executed on a computer causes the computer to execute a display method of a chat system, the method comprising:

transmitting and receiving conversations in the form of characters via a network;

displaying the conversations;

storing a URL displayed in the conversations, together with a character string of statements preceding and following the URL;

listing the stored URL when a predetermined instruction is issued;

setting a keyword;

determining whether the keyword exists in a conversation;

displaying the keyword with emphasis when the conversation is displayed; and

resuming displaying the conversation upon receiving the keyword when the conversation is not displayed.

46. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program of a display method of a chat system, said computer program comprising:

a first module causing a computer to transmit and receive, by a network, conversations in the form of characters;

a second module causing a computer to display the conversations;

a third module causing a computer to store a URL displayed in the conversations, together with character strings of statements including the URL;

a fourth module causing a computer to list the stored URL when predetermined instruction is issued;

a fifth module causing a computer to set a keyword;

a sixth module causing a computer to produce a predetermined sound when the keyword exists in a displayed conversation; and

a seventh module causing a computer to resume the display of a conversation by receiving the keyword when the conversation is not displayed.